

developed from the crown of the same fruit having multiple crowns. Both the fruits on a single peduncle developed and ripened simultaneously, thus giving the appearance of a single fruit in late stage. Whatever the cause may be, this phenomenon is rare and needs further

study on nutritional, cytogenetic and physiological aspects.

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41. *POA NEPHELOPHILA* BOR — A NEW RECORD TO INDIA FROM GARHWAL HIMALAYA

(With one text-figure)

During plant explorations in Garhwal Himalaya, some interesting specimens of *Poa* were collected from Yamnotri in Uttarkashi district. Critical analysis of the specimens of the species as well as perusal of literature confirmed the identity of the species as *Poa nephelophila*, so far known from Myanmar (Burma), hitherto not reported from India (Bor 1960, Rajbhandari 1991).

The present communication pertains to the detailed description and illustrations of the species, along with short notes on its distribution, and collector's Herbarium number. The voucher specimens are deposited in the Herbarium, H.N.B. Garhwal University, Srinagar (GUH).

Poa nephelophila Bor in Kew Bull. 1948: 140. 1948; in *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 50: 819. 1952; GBCIP. 558. 1960; Rajbhandari *In The Himalayan Plants* (ed. Ohba & Malla) 2: 222. 1991.

Annual, glabrous grasses; culms erect or ascending from the geniculate base, 20-38 x 0.15 cm, leafy; nodes 2-3, shining. Leaves flat, linear-acuminate, 10-12 x 0.3-0.5 cm, glabrous on the margins and both surfaces or minutely scabrid, with rounded base, dark-green in colour; sheaths 6-16 cm long, glabrous ligules rounded at the apex, 1.1-1.2 mm long, outer surface glabrous. Panicles pyramidal, 8-12 x 2-3 cm; branches spreading, smooth, lower branches 4; spikelets oblong, 5.5 mm long, 4-6 flowered. Lower glumes elliptic-oblong, acuminate, 1.8 mm long,

1-nerved, margins hyaline, keel scabrid above; upper glumes elliptic, acute or acuminate, 2.5 mm long, 3-nerved, margins hyaline, keel ciliate to the basal half or more, remainder scabrid; paleas elliptic, oblong, 2.5 mm long, with long ciliate keels. Stamens 3; anthers 0.6 mm long. Ovary ovoid, glabrous.

Fl. & Fr.: September-October.

Rare - on alpine slopes, associated with other grasses and herbs.

Specimen examined: Yamnotri (Uttarkashi) 3300 m; D.C. Nautiyal; GUH 14917.

Distribution: Previously the plant was reported from Burma, Chimlipass, above 3300 m (Bor, 1990).

This is a very leafy species closely resembling robust forms of *Poa annua* L. However, it mainly differs in having 4 lower panicle branches and ligules 1.1-1.2 mm long, (*Poa annua* has 1 or 2 lower panicle branches and ligules measures 1.5-3 mm long).

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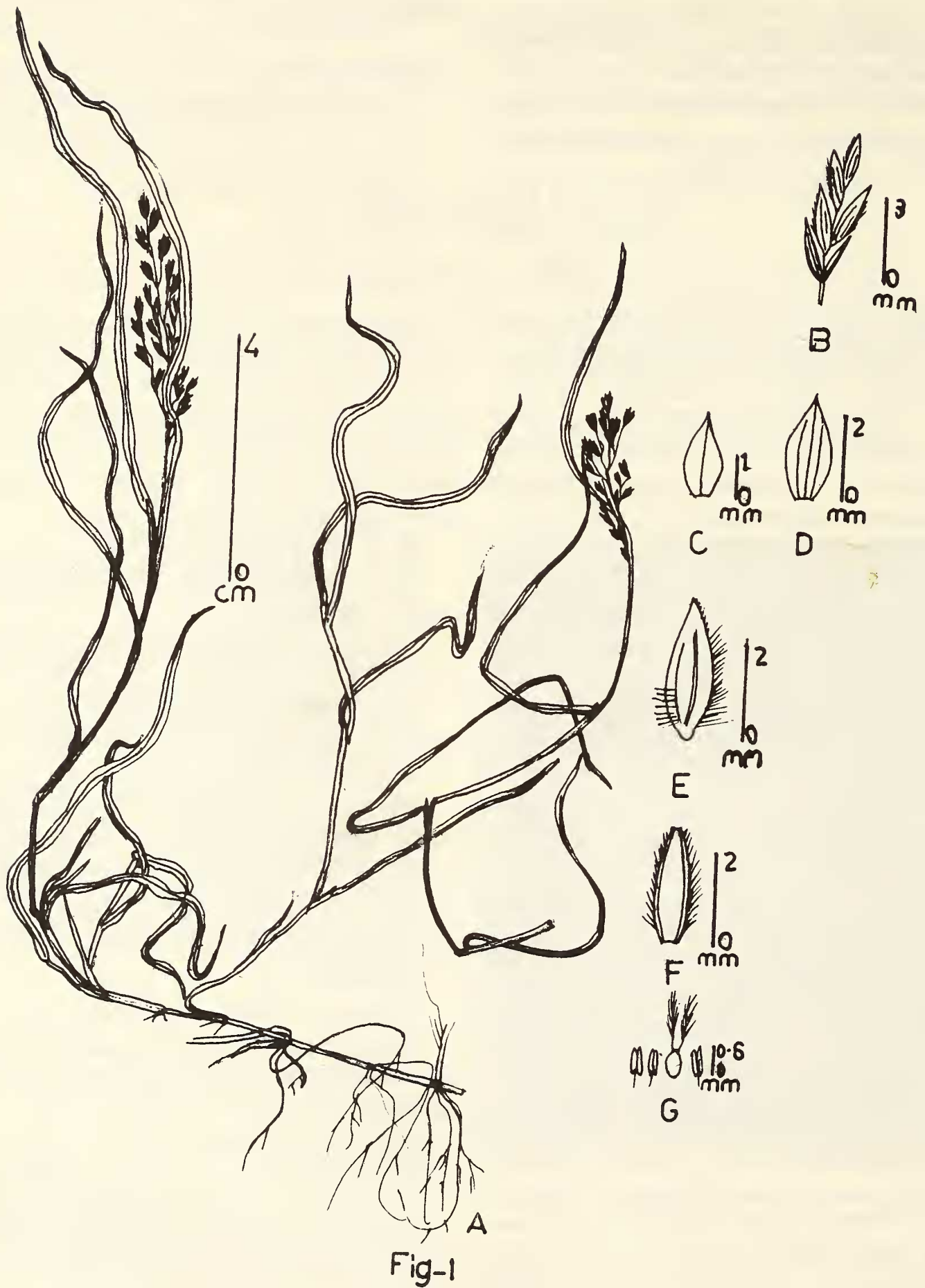


Fig. 1. *Poa nephelophila* Bor A. Plant; B. Spikelet; C. Lower glume; D. Upper glume; E. Lowest lemma; F. Palea; G. Anthers, ovary, styles and stigmas.